

# MAKING IT BETTER NOW

Ending Homophobia and Transphobia in  
School Athletics and Physical Education

Friday, 4 May 2012

# THEN AND NOW

# WELCOME!



- About **OUTSPORT** TORONTO.
- Find out a bit about you.
- Background data.
- Case studies.
- Messages and what can be done.
- Q&A and Wrap.

# OUR TEAM HERE TODAY

- **OUTSPORT TORONTO**
  - Julian DiBattista, *Community Outreach*
  - Ken Meiklejohn, *Vice Chair*
  - James Scott, *Membership & Member Services*
  - Shawn Sheridan, *Chair*
- Steven Mock, *Assistant Professor, University of Waterloo*
- Toronto District School Board
  - Dave Doucette, *Elementary School Teacher*
  - Kris Madill, *Middle School Teacher*
  - Meredith Szewchuk, *High School Teacher*

# ABOUT OUTSPORT TORONTO

- Umbrella organisation for 23 LGBT Sport and Recreation organisations in the GTA.
  - Mission: Serve and support LGBT sport and recreation organisations in the GTA through
    - Promotion of health, healthy living, wellness, and wellbeing amongst the broader LGBT community.
    - Provision of networking, liaison, learning, and mentoring opportunities amongst member organisations.
    - Advocacy to third-parties.
  - Amongst member organisations, have roughly 4,000 participants in sport and recreation in Toronto.
    - Some member organisations more than 25 years old.
- Breathless **Synchro**
  - Cabbagetown Group **Softball** League
  - Central Canada Gay **Rodeo** Association
  - Crag Crux **Climbers**
  - Downtown **Soccer** Toronto
  - Downtown **Swim** Club Toronto
  - Front**Runners** Toronto
  - Muddy York **Rugby** Football Club
  - Out and Out Toronto – **various sport and rec activities**
  - Pink Turf **Soccer** League
  - Rainbow **Ballroom** of Toronto
  - Rainbow Hoops **Basketball**
  - Righteously Outrageous Twirling Corps – **precision colour guard**
  - Toronto Gay **Football** League
  - Toronto Gay **Hockey** Association
  - Toronto Gay **Ski and Snowboarding** Club
  - Toronto Historical **Bowling** Society
  - Toronto Lesbian and Gay **Tennis** Association
  - Toronto PWA Foundation Friends for Life **Bike** Rally
  - Toronto Rainbow Reef Rangers - **SCUBA**
  - Toronto Sand Sharks **Beach Volleyball**
  - Toronto Triggerfish **Water Polo**
  - Village **Pool** League

# WHO'S HERE? STAND IF YOU ...



- Are a student
- Are an elementary school teacher
- Are a middle school teacher
- Are a secondary school teacher
- Teach phys-ed
- Coach a sport
- Are a principal or vice-principal
- Are a trustee, Ministry of Education employee, or school board personnel
- Have heard homophobic language in school
- Have counselled a student who has been the subject of homophobia
- Have been a silent bystander to homophobic remarks or behaviour
- Intervened in a situation where there were homophobic remarks or behaviour
- Have used homophobic language

School Climate

Mental Health Correlates of Homophobic Victimization

LGBT-focused Sport

## **BACKGROUND DATA**

Steven Mock, PhD, Assistant Professor

University Of Waterloo, Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies

# OVERVIEW



- Results from national climate survey on homophobia
- Correlates of homophobic victimization
- Homophobia in sport
- LGBT-focused sport



# DEFINING TERMS

- Sexual orientation
  - Constellation of attraction, behaviour, identity (LeVay & Valente, 2006).
  
- Sexual minority:
  - Identity (e.g., gay, lesbian, bisexual) claimed by about 1-3% in population-based studies (Mock & Eibach, in press).
  - Same-sex behaviour and attraction – higher rates (up to 20% in some studies).
  
- Stigmatization of sexual minority status (or perceived sexual minority status):
  - Threat to gender norms (Bem, 1991).
  - Vilified in certain belief systems.
  - Experienced across the life span.

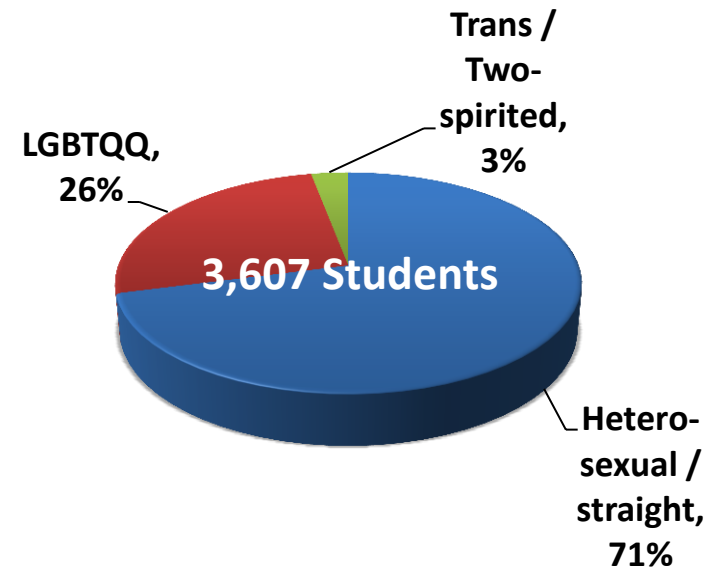
# RESULTS FROM EGALE SCHOOL

## CLIMATE STUDY

Taylor, C., & Peter, T. (2011). Every class in every school: *Final report on the first national climate survey on homophobia, biphobia, and transphobia in Canadian schools.*

<http://www.egale.ca/extra%5C1489.pdf>

- Data collection from 2007-2009.
  - On-line widely distributed.
  - In-school sessions in 22 randomly selected schools.
- Final sample of 3,607 students across Canada.
- Mean age = 17.4 (SD = 4.2); White/Caucasian=66%; Asian = 19%; Aboriginal = 6%; mixed ethnicity = 6%; other = 3%.



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- 70% of all students (regardless of orientation/gender) heard homophobic expressions like “that’s so gay” every day in school.
- 48% heard “faggot,” “lesbo,” and “dyke” everyday in school.
- Experienced Verbal Harassment:
  - 74% of trans students.
  - 55% of sexual minority(e.g., lesbian, gay, bisexual) students.
  - 26% of non-LGBT students.
  - **58% of non-LGBTQ youth find homophobic comments upsetting.**

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- Physically Harassed or Assaulted Due to Actual/Perceived Sexual Orientation or Gender Expression:
  - 37% of trans students.
  - 20% of LGBTQ students.
  - 10% of non-LGBTQ students.
  
- Sexually Harassed:
  - 49% of trans students.
  - 43% of male and female bisexual students.
  - 40% of gay male students.
  - 33% of lesbian students.

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- Feel Unsafe at School:
  - 64% of LBGT students.
  
- Feel Unsafe in Phys. Ed. Change Rooms:
  - 59% of female sexual minority youth.
  - 52% of trans youth.
  - 49% of all LGBTQ youth.
  - 30% of non-LGBTQ youth.

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- Schools **WITH** anti-homophobia Policies
  - 40% of LGBTQ students report being verbally harassed.
  - 20% of LGBTQ students report being physically harassed.
  
- Schools **WITHOUT** anti-homophobia Policies
  - 46% of LGBTQ students report being verbally harassed.
  - 33% of LGBTQ students report being physically harassed.

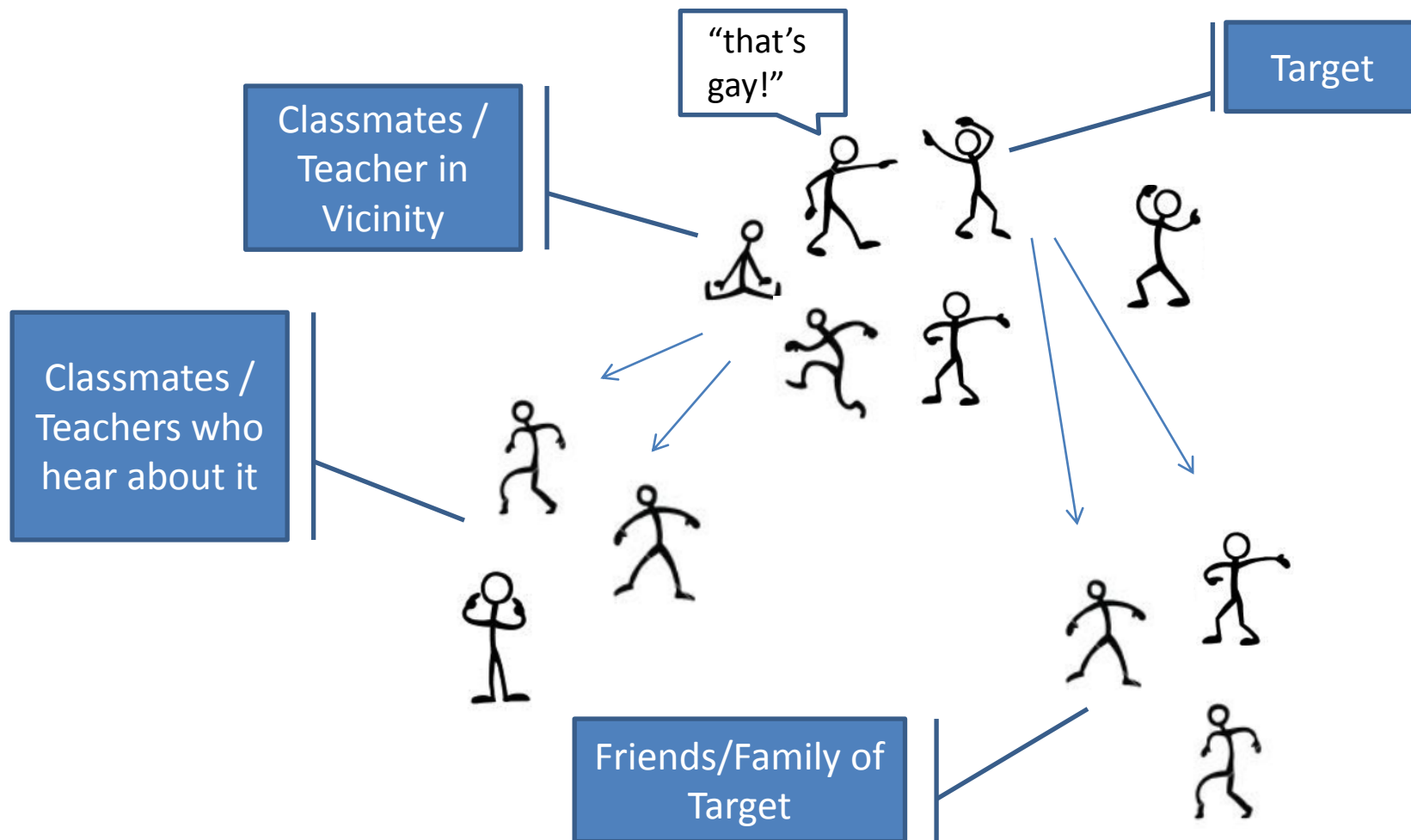
# CORRELATES OF HOMOPHOBIC VICTIMIZATION



D'Augelli, A. R., Pilkington, N. W., & Hershberger, S. L. (2002). Incidence and mental health impact of sexual orientation victimization of lesbian, gay, and bisexual youths in high school. *School Psychology Quarterly, 17*, 148-167.

- Samples from LGBT youth groups in US and Canada as well as online recruitment:
  - Final sample of 350 youths; 56% male, 44% female.
  - Average age = 19.2 (range = 14 to 21); 78% White, 8% Black, 3% Puerto Rican, 4% Asian, 1% Aboriginal, 5% other.
  - 73% US, 25% Canada, 2% New Zealand.
  
- Basic Findings – i.e., Homophobic Victimization Significantly Associated with:
  - Earlier age of self-awareness and disclosure of being LGBT.
  - Being “out” in high school.
  - Gender atypicality (e.g., identified as “sissy” or “tomboy”).
  - Suicidal ideation.

# WHO IS AFFECTED BY HOMOPHOBIC COMMENTS?





# HOMOPHOBIA IN SPORT

- Anderson, E. (2002). Openly gay athletes: Contesting hegemonic masculinity in a homophobic environment. *Gender & Society, 16*, 860-877.
  - Sartore, M. L., & Cunningham, G. B. (2009). Gender, sexual prejudice and sport participation: Implications for sexual minorities. *Sex Roles, 60*, 100-113.
- Broad consensus:
    - Homophobic climate found in many sport settings.
    - Intolerance for deviation from gender norms.
  - Countered with: multiple accounts of accepting coaches and team-mates after “coming out”.
  - Other than athletes, challenges for acceptance of LGBT coaches:
    - Study showed if parents’ had negative attitudes toward gays and lesbians, unwilling for children to have LGBT coach.

# LGBT-FOCUSED SPORT

- Elling, A., De Knop, P., & Knoppers, A. (2003). Gay/lesbian sport clubs and events: places of homo-social bonding and cultural resistance? *International Review for the Sociology of Sport*, 38, 441-456.
  - Jones, L. & McCarthy, M. (2010). Mapping the landscape of gay men's football. *Leisure Studies*, 29, 161-173.
  - van Ingen, C. (2004). Therapeutic landscapes and the regulated body in the Toronto Front Runners. *Sociology of Sport Journal*, 21, 253-269.
- Sexual minority-focused sport groups play multiple roles:
    - Safe, somewhat segregated setting for sexual minorities to socialize, exercise, and enjoy sport.
    - Provides sense of belonging, camaraderie, social support, relaxation, mastery... i.e., **some of the key benefits of sport involvement.**
    - Raises the profile of sexual minority identity in a broader context (e.g., awareness of LGBT sport among non-LGBT teams).

# INCLUSIVENESS IN LGBT-FOCUSED SPORT

Studies reviewed above discussed the need to further explore or develop:

- Climate for transgender participants.
- Inclusiveness for diverse racial and ethnic backgrounds.

# BREAK-OUT CASE STUDIES

# BREAK-OUT RECAP



The Messages We Must Communicate to All

**YOU CAN PLAY**

# WHAT WILL YOU DO?

# WHAT WILL YOU DO?

1. Display LGBT-inclusive materials.
2. Teach about respect and anti-LGBT language and bias through the Ten TDSB Character Traits, and incorporate them into physical education.
3. Introduce the *Who Is NOBODY?* programme to your school.
4. Include LGBT people and history in the curriculum.
5. If you witness homophobic language and behaviour – students or staff – speak out. Turn “throw-away” moments into teaching moments.
6. Develop and implement inclusive intramural and phys-ed programs.
7. Coaches and physical education teachers make great allies.
8. Share with a colleague your perspective on the importance to LGBT students of sport and phys-ed.
9. Develop an athlete ally pledge for varsity teams.
10. Support LGBT student clubs and Gay-Straight-Alliances (GSAs).
11. Invite your GSA and/or equity rep to give a presentation at a staff meeting.
12. Integrate strategies to combat homophobia in your school’s health action committee.
13. Bring **OUTSPORT TORONTO** to your school.
14. Organise an awareness week on homophobia, human rights, and inclusion.



# WHAT WE WILL DO

- Be there to support you.
- Will assist you with implementing Character Traits, assemblies, classroom presentations, Phys. Ed. programmes, and athletics sessions.
- Check in with you and see if we can help down the road.

Q&A

Additional Resources

**WRAP-UP**

# Q&A



# ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [www.OutSportToronto.org](http://www.OutSportToronto.org)
- [www.tdsb.on.ca/site/viewitem.asp?siteid=15&menuid=5018&pageid=4377](http://www.tdsb.on.ca/site/viewitem.asp?siteid=15&menuid=5018&pageid=4377)
- <http://sports.glsen.org>
- [www.OPHEA.net](http://www.OPHEA.net)
- <http://YouCanPlayProject.org>
- [www.CAAWS.ca/StepUpSpeakOut/e/index.cfm](http://www.CAAWS.ca/StepUpSpeakOut/e/index.cfm)
- <http://AthleteAlly.com>
- [www.WholsNobody.com](http://www.WholsNobody.com)
- [www.GForceSports.org](http://www.GForceSports.org)
- <http://www.youtube.com/user/TGHAGayHockey>
- **Your Equity Rep**
- Challenging Homophobia and Heterosexism: A K-12 Curriculum Resource Guide
- Rainbows and Triangles: A Curriculum Document for Challenging Homophobia and Heterosexism in the K-6 Classroom (2002)

# THANK YOU!



- Feedback forms.